



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
**VETERANS' AFFAIRS**  
*Chairman Phil Roe, M.D.*

**S. 1266, the Enhancing Veteran Care Act**

**Background:**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) utilizes the expertise of medical center and Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) directors to manage its medical facilities around the country. Most often, investigating of wrongdoing or substandard care practices within VA is completed by the Inspector General (IG) and the Government Accountability Office (GAO), but these investigations take time to complete, despite the fact veterans may be in imminent danger because of substandard care practices.

The Enhancing Veteran Care Act authorizes VA to contract with non-profits that accredit health care organizations to investigate VA medical centers. Under the Enhancing Veteran Care Act, VA can delegate this authority to the VISN or medical center director. Before entering into a contract with a non-profit for the purposes of investigating a facility, the VISN or medical director must notify VA, the IG and the GAO to ensure investigations are coordinated and transparent.

**The Message:**

- Substandard care practices are dangerous to veterans and must be addressed quickly.
- VISN and medical center directors have knowledge of the ongoing issues within their facilities and have on-the-ground contacts that are beneficial to investigating wrongdoing.
- The Enhancing Veteran Care Act authorizes VA to contract with non-profits to speed up investigations.
- This legislation will further deliver on our promise to hold VA accountable and ensure veterans have timely access to quality care.